

Message Text

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CINCUSNAVEUR

COMSIXTHFLT

AMCONSUL MARSEILLE

DIA WASHDC

CONFIDENTIAL PARIS 01383

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MPOL, FR

SUBJECT:

MARINE TRAINING IN FRANCE

REF: (A) PARIS 822; (B) STATE 9380; (C) PARIS 1285

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: QUAI OFFICIAL SUGGESTS THAT WE PERMIT ONLY INFREQUENTLY FRENCH PRESS COVERAGE OF SIXTH FLEET ACTIVITIES. SAME OFFICIAL SUGGESTS REWORDING OF PRESS STATEMENT USED WITH CBS FOR FUTURE USE. WE BELIEVE OFFICIAL'S VIEWS MERIT OUR CLOSE ATTENTION. END SUMMARY.

2. IN COURSE OF RECENT DISCUSSION WITH US CONCERNING PUBLIC AFFAIRS ASPECTS OF MARINE TRAINING IN FRANCE, SCHRICKE (QUAI CHIEF OF PACTS AND DISARMAMENT AFFAIRS) REFERRED TO RECENT 30-MINUTE FRENCH TV DOCUMENTARY ON SIXTH FLEET AND MARINE TRAINING (REF A PARA 5). IN LIGHT OF EFFECT OF THAT TV PROGRAM IN FOCUSING HOSTILE FRENCH ATTENTION ON U.S. MARINE TRAINING AT CAMP
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CANJUERS, SCHRICKE SUGGESTED THAT WE ONLY APPROVE

REQUESTS FOR SUCH FRENCH NEWS COVERAGE INFREQUENTLY
AND, WHEN WE DO PERMIT SUCH PRESS COVERAGE OF SIXTH FLEET
ACTIVITIES, THAT WE MAKE THE MINIMUM POSSIBLE COMMENTARY.

3. ON SEPARATE OCCASION, AFTER PASSING TEXT OF PARA 2
REF B TO QUAI (AS REPORTED REC C) SCHRICKE SUGGESTED
SEVERAL MINOR MODIFICATIONS IN THAT TEXT TO RENDER IT
MORE "ROUTINE AND LOW KEY" AND TO REMOVE SOME OF THE
LANGUAGE THAT MIGHT CREATE PROBLEMS FOR GOF IN DEFENDING
ITS AGREEMENT TO PERMIT MARINE TRAINING AT CAMP CANJUERS.
TEXT OF QUAI RE-DRAFT FOLLOWS:

4. "THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT IN RECENT YEARS HAS MADE
TRAINING FACILITIES AT CAMP DE CANJUERS AVAILABLE FOR
SMALL GROUPS OF MARINES. IT IS ONE OF THE FEW PLACES
AVAILABLE TO THE SIXTH FLEET WHERE TRAINING CAN TAKE
PLACE. THE MARINES FIRE CREW-SERVED WEAPONS AND HOLD
ROUTINE EXERCISES (BIVOUAC, COMPASS TRAINING, ETC.).
THE TRAINING DOES NOT INVOLVE TANKS. THE CAMP IS INLAND
AND IS NOT SUITABLE FOR AMPHIBIOUS TRAINING. THE CURRENT
TRAINING PERIOD IS JANUARY 11 TO 19. IT DOES NOT
INVOLVE MORE THAN 200 MEN. SIMILAR TRAINING FACILITIES
ARE PROVIDED BY THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT TO OTHER ALLIED
COUNTRIES."

5. COMMENT: WITH REGARD TO PARA 2 ABOVE, SCHRICKE'S
INITIATIVE WITH US WAS NOT REPEAT NOT DESIGNED TO
CRITICIZE EITHER THE DECISION BY THE U.S. TO PERMIT THE
FRENCH TV CREW TO PREPARE THE JANUARY 9 DOCUMENTARY, OR
THE PARTICIPATION OF U.S. PERSONNEL DURING THAT SHOW.
RATHER, HIS INTERVENTION WAS DESIGNED TO UNDERLINE QUAI
PREFERENCE FOR AS LOW A U.S. MILITARY PROFILE IN FRENCH
PUBLIC MEDIA AS POSSIBLE WITH REGARD TO TRAINING ACTIVI-
TIES. WE INTERPRET SCHRICKE'S REMARKS TO SUGGEST THAT
QUAI IS TRYING TO INSURE MAXIMUM COOPERATION WITH US ON
TRAINING MATTERS BY SEEKING TO KEEP MEDIA-INSPIRED
CRITICISM OF THIS FRENCH COOPERATION TO A MINIMUM. WITH
REGARD TO PARAS 3 AND 4 ABOVE, WE PASS ALONG SCHRICKE'S COMMENTS
SO THAT ADDRESSEES WILL HAVE A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF
THE TYPE OF PRESS COMMENT THE QUAI WOULD PREFER TO SEE
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USED BY USG OFFICIALS. TO THE EXTENT THAT WE CAN SKEW
FUTURE PRESS STATEMENTS IN THE DIRECTION SUGGESTED BY
SCHRICKE, IT WOULD PROBABLY HELP THE GOF TO MANAGE THE
PUBLIC RELATIONS ASPECTS OF U.S. TRAINING ON FRENCH
TERRITORY.

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